(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Deficit in oil pool account

598. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the trends in oil pool deficit during the last three years;

(b) whether the deficit is on the increase; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government propose to reduce the oil pool deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The cumulative deficit in the oil pool account for the period 1998-99 to 2000-2001 was as follows:

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Cumulative deficit
1998-99	3,408
1999-2000	6,256
2000-2001	12,594

(c) The cumulative outstandings of the oil companies against the oil pool account will be liquidated by issuing oil bonds to the concerned companies.

Difference over subsidy on LPG

599. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for removing or reducing subsidy from LPG and kerosene;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a difference of opinion with the Ministry of Finance; and

(d) if so, what are the points of difference between the two?